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» travel p.25

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Wednesday, May 28, 2008 metronews.ca Vancouver

» entertainment p.28

Get a piece of the Sopranos

Week-old baby listed for sale

By **JEFF HODSON**
Metro Vancouver

A West End couple listed for sale their seven-day-old daughter on *craigslist.com*, Vancouver police said yesterday.

The couple told police it was a hoax.

"Only they know whether it was truly a hoax or not," said Const. Tim Fanning. "If they had a viable bite from somebody that came, who knows what would have happened?"

The ad, which has been removed from the site, was noticed Friday by a 62-year-old grandmother from Maple Ridge.

It read:

"Must Have!!!!!! — $10,000

"A new baby girl, 7 days old, healthy and very cute.

"Can't afford and unexpected.

"Looking for a good home.

"Please call ASAP."

It included a phone number that police tracked to an apartment in the West End. They found four adults, including a 23-year-old woman who was breastfeeding her seven-day-old daughter.

The child's father, a 26-year-old Port Coquitlam man, and the computer where the ad was created were also there.

"The first thing out of their mouths was that it was just a hoax," said Fanning. "But why was it posted on Craigslist to begin with?"

He said the couple is known to police and has a history of drugs. They were arrested for public mischief, but no charges were laid.

The Ministry of Children and Family Development is investigating.

– jeff.hodson@metro news.ca

what do you think?

» Let us know by e-mailing us at vancouverletters@metronews.ca

» celeb buzz p.30

Playing Playboy?

Hef said to want Iron Man for role

» local p.3

InSite gets a year's reprieve

Please recycle

RAFE ARNOTT/METRO VANCOUVER

A time for speaking up

Ginger Gosnell-Meyers, a board member with the Centre For Native Policy and Research, works at her Burnaby home yesterday. She said that tomorrow's National Day of Action is an opportunity for aboriginal women to speak up. Story, page 4.

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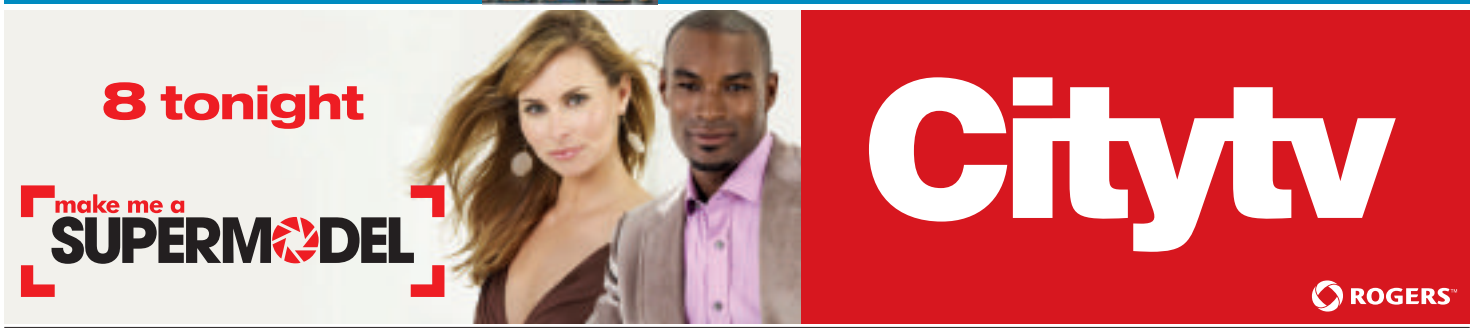
local

The City of Vancouver is officially opening a new seawall at Southeast False Creek today. The ceremony will include the first official crossing of a new pedestrian bridge near Science World. METRO VANCOUVER



Firefighter's son guilty

Grant Mason, 21, convicted of assault; father acquitted

By **JEFF HODSON**
Metro Vancouver

The son of an off-duty firefighter was found guilty yesterday of resisting arrest and assaulting a police officer during a St. Patrick's Day donnybrook that was viewed hundreds of thousands of times on YouTube.

Grant Mason, 21, was handed a one-year conditional discharge that includes 40 hours of community service and a written apology to the three Vancouver police officers who arrested him.

His father, firefighter Curtis Mason, was found not guilty of resisting arrest in the March 17, 2006, incident, which began after a car accident in downtown Vancouver.

A tourist from Washington State captured the fight on video and posted it on the video-sharing website YouTube. The video has been viewed more than 220,000 times.

In his judgment, Provincial Judge Gregory Rideout said Grant was intoxicated and said the man's testimony to the contrary was "self-serving and unbelievable."

"He was looking for a fight; he found a fight; his choice of whom to fight clearly demonstrated poor judgment," said Rideout, who noted Mason's age and lack of criminal record when sentencing.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Curtis Mason leaves Vancouver Provincial Court yesterday afternoon.

> *« He was looking for a fight; he found a fight; his choice of whom to fight clearly demonstrated poor judgment. »*
>
> *Judge Gregory Rideout*

Rideout chastised both Masons. He scolded Grant for not showing respect to police, and told Curtis that his actions — he allegedly spat on a fellow firefighter who was administering first aid to him — were "disgraceful" and "unbecoming of a firefighter."

Outside the provincial courthouse, Curtis said he respected the judge's decision and said being in the public eye throughout the ordeal was "foreign and unfortunate."

–jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

Judge rules in InSite's favour

Drug-injection site can't be closed for at least a year

pressure
» The U.S. government has urged Canada to close the InSite project.

The federal government cannot constitutionally close Vancouver's supervised drug-injection site for at least a year, a judge ruled yesterday.

Drug addicts deserve access to health-care treatment provided by InSite in the same way that people who use alcohol or tobacco, B.C. Supreme Court judge Ian Pitfield ruled.

Supporters of the facility had gone to court to block Ottawa's bid to shut it down, which requires a special exemption from Canada's drug laws to remain open.

Liz Evans, executive director of the PHS Community Services Society, which operates InSite, said the decision confirms "what doctors and nurses have known for years."

"Addiction is a health-care issue, and that InSite is a vital part of how our health-care system treats this tragic disease," Evans said.

She added that, since InSite opened, there have been more than 1 million injections take place under the supervision of nurses, and close to 1,000 overdose interventions prevented.

"And not one single fatality," Evans said.

METRO VANCOUVER

»news In Brief

» **SEARCH** A hazmat team called to search a Surrey apartment for the source of a terrible smell, which was making it hard for tenants to breathe, stumbled upon a cache of weapons and drugs in a vacant suite. Police found what appeared to be cocaine or heroin and an assault rifle.

» **CRIME** NDP MLA Mike Farnworth yesterday introduced The Victims Of Crime Compensation Act, which would entitle victims of crime to a two-year unpaid leave of absence from work with the right to return to their previous position.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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The National Day of Action was first organized three years ago to call attention to poverty, lack of governmental action on aboriginal land claims issues, the quality of aboriginal health and social service programs and the federal government's cancellation of the Kelowna Accord. SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA.ORG

Rallying to be heard

National Day of Action to focus on children, poverty

By **ANDREW KING**
for Metro Vancouver

Some downtown Vancouver streets will be closed tomorrow when B.C. First Nations groups rally to bring attention to aboriginal issues on the third annual National Day of Action.

«What we would prefer to do is draw peaceful attention to our cause in a matter that Canadians can hear us.»
First Nations member Doug Kelly

This year's focus will be on children, poverty and education.

The Vancouver rally will move from Premier Gordon Campbell's office to the Olympic clock at the Vancouver Art Gallery.

RAFE ARNOTT/METRO VANCOUVER

Dave Dennis, vice-president of the United Native Nations, outside their headquarters in East Vancouver yesterday.

Doug Kelly, a member of the First Nations Summit New Relationship Action Committee, said he does not want a repeat of the radical protests seen at the Olympic clock unveilling.

"We don't need any of the theatrics," he said. "What we would prefer to do is draw peaceful attention to our cause in a matter that Canadians can hear us."

With the 2010 Olympics just two years away, Dave Dennis, the vice-president of the United Native Nations, said that to him, the main objective of the protest is to entice international media to take notice of the poverty that affects aboriginal people.

"It's important for us to realize that we have to take a page out of Tibet and realize that we're not going to get it by issuing platitudes about relationships and reconciliation."

Dennis said he expects an additional two to three protest marches to be held in the summer.

Tomorrow's noon rally is expected to draw a thousand aboriginals and their supporters, but Dennis said that not everyone will be able to make it.

"Nowadays there is a lot of employment within our community, and because most of our people are on minimum wage, they can't afford to come out to a lot of these things," he added.

Bands lag on treaty process

Of the hundreds of First Nation bands in B.C., only two, the Tsawwassen First Nation and the Maa-nulth First Nations, are in the fifth stage of the six-stage B.C. Treaty Commission process. The bands' final agreements must be ratified by the both the provincial and federal governments, and the Senate before they are passed into law and become a treaty.

1 in 4 speak native language

Only one in four Aboriginal people speak an Aboriginal language. According to 2001 Census data, of the 976,300 people who identified themselves as Aboriginal, 235,000 (or 24 per cent) reported that they were able to conduct a conversation in an Aboriginal language. That's a 5 per cent drop from 1996.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

A masked demonstrator waves a Mohawk flag outside the Vancouver Art Gallery during the National Day of Action on April 24, 2006.
JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

chilliwack

Strahl urged to aid kids' welfare

PROTEST Tomorrow's Aboriginal Day will begin in the Lower Mainland with a protest outside MP Chuck Strahl's Chilliwack office.

Organizer Ernie Crey said he wants the provincial and federal governments to take notice of the recent auditor general's report that says improvements in First Nations' child welfare are needed.

Crey, an adviser to the Sto:lo Tribal Council, said more effort should be made to improve aboriginal communities instead of removing children from their families.

He added that this is Strahl's opportunity to do more than this predecessors.

"He'll put his working relationship with First Nations leaders on a far better footing that is now the case."

ANDREW KING/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Cuts cost families: Director

Mother Centre's head says women losing resources

By **KRISTEN THOMPSON**
Metro Vancouver

Many low-income First Nations mothers feel uncomfortable using aid services outside their community, so when Aboriginal-run programs are cut it puts those women at greater risk of losing their children.

Penny Irons, executive director of the Aboriginal Mother Centre Society, said government support for the marginalized group is declining while the number of children in care is consequently skyrocketing.

Her centre, which feeds about 70 families a week, lost its annual $500,000 federal funding in December.

"When (our) programs were cut we ... weren't able to maintain a relationship with those families. We've gone looking for some moms and many (of them) no longer have their kids."

"It really takes a toll ... not knowing if tomorrow we'll have to close the doors. We can see how to solve the problem but we don't have enough money."

Ginger Gosnell-Myers, a board member with the Centre For Native Policy and Research, said Aboriginal women face identity issues and shame, and need to be around people like them.

"We're community-based people," the 27-year-old Simon Fraser University Master's student said, adding that this is hard in an urban centre.

Aboriginal centres, Gosnell-Myers said, are a place for women to find much-needed cultural connections, support and acceptance, and cutting their funding is "outrageous."

-kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

A woman takes part in a Vancouver rally during the first National Day of Action on April 24, 2006.

food drive

» The Aboriginal Mother Centre Society is hosting a food drive until Saturday.
» Donations can be made at 2019 Dundas Street.

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Gabrielle Miller, left, has been named best-dressed celebrity on the Leo Awards Red Carpet, according to a panel of celebrity judges including CityTV's Dawn Chubai. Colin Cunningham was named best-dressed male.

METRO VANCOUVER

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Rosa Elena Moreno, right, consul general of El Salvador, presents her country's National Fire Service flag to Vancouver fire Chief Ray Holdgate at Fire Hall 1 yesterday.

El Salvador honours city firefighters

By **KRISTEN THOMPSON**
Metro Vancouver

Vancouver firefighters yesterday were presented with the flag of the National Fire Service of El Salvador, given to the city as thanks for donating fire engines, gear and training to the small Central American country.

Rosa Elena Moreno, consul general of El Salvador, presented the thank-you gift to Vancouver fire Chief Ray Holdgate outside Fire Hall 1.

Five firefighters recently spent 10 days in El Salvador to give three much-needed decommissioned engines, 101 sets of protective clothing and a set of the Jaws of Life.

"This is like a long-distance relationship that came together finally," said Morena. "Every time I talked to the (fire) chief in El Salvador he was so excited."

Firefighter Brian Hutchison said the success of the project has motivated the department to continue offering similar international aid.

"We were welcomed and treated like VIPs (in El Salvador)," he said.

Feds limiting free speech, pundit says

Mohammed cartoon publisher says HRC criminalizing news

By **KRISTEN THOMPSON**
Metro Vancouver

The Canadian government, through the Human Rights Commission, is impeding freedom of speech by trying to arbitrate what publications are allowed to print, a lawyer and political pundit says.

Ezra Levant became famous after he reprinted controversial Danish cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammed while the publisher of Calgary-based Western Standard magazine in 2006.

He spoke at the Fraser Institute in Vancouver yesterday.

Syed Soharwardy of the Islamic Supreme Council of Canada and the Edmonton Muslim Council filed a complaint under the Human Rights Act, which says Levant risked exposing Muslim Canadians to hatred or contempt.

"There are some proper limits on free speech," Levant said, adding he agrees with outlawing treason, defamation and slander.

"None of these apply to the offence for which I've been charged.

"We (printed the cartoons) … as a prosecutor might put a piece of evidence into court as an exhibit. There were riots overseas over (the) cartoons — here's what they looked like."

He said criminalizing news reporting is Orwellian.

"Are these people who truly believe in human rights, who are speaking for the downtrodden? Or are they people who pick up a weapon … against anyone who dares have a political discussion against them?" he said.

"These rules are so vague and malleable they can be abused, (and) to enforce them equally would be to censor anything offensive."

–kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

RAFE ARNOTT/METRO VANCOUVER

Ezra Levant, an Alberta lawyer, speaks at The Fraser Institute yesterday about media censorship.

Steyn case

» Maclean's magazine writer Mark Steyn is before the B.C. Human Right's Commission over complaints made by two members of the Canadian Islamic Congress.
» They allege several of his 2007 articles, particularly The Future Belongs To Islam, promoted Islamophobia.

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police

Beach brawl prompts response

ENGLISH BAY Police are increasing their presence at Vancouver beaches following a frantic weekend that included a throat slashing and a brawl involving about 100 drunk teens at English Bay.

Vancouver Const. Tim Fanning said the increased presence would be low-key and would include increased foot and mounted patrols.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

»news
In Brief

» **FESTIVAL** Tickets go on sale tomorrow for the first Whistler Music Festival. Taking place July 19-20 at Whistler Blackcomb's Tube Park at Base II, the event will include artists such as Elvis Costello, Bedouin Soundclash and Broken Social Scene.

» **PROJECT** The contractor of the Seymour Capilano water tunnel project has been fired, *news1130.com* reports. The $200-million project was put on hiatus after 10 incidents involving falling rocks was reported.

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JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Chief Const. Jim Chu introduces Deputy Chief Bob Rich as the new head of the Abbotsford Police Service yesterday.

Rich takes on top role

VPD deputy Abbotsford's new police chief

Vancouver Deputy Police Chief Bob Rich is Abbotsford's new top cop.

Rich, who spent 28 years as a police officer in Vancouver and has a son on the force, begins his role as Abbotsford Police Department's chief constable on July 14.

"We're losing a great colleague and a great friend," said Vancouver Chief Const. Jim Chu, who first worked with Rich as a patrol constable and paralleled his rise through the ranks, from supervisors, to district commanders and finally as deputy chiefs under former Chief Const. Jamie Graham.

Rich, along with then-Vancouver Supt. Kash Heed, were reported to be finalists in the hiring process that selected Chu as chief constable in Vancouver.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

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Rocker in city for mail job

By **ANDREW KING**
for Metro Vancouver

Rocker Ed Robertson of The Barenaked Ladies can add "mail carrier" to his resume after shooting the latest episode for his hit TV series, Ed's Up, in Vancouver.

Robertson

Canada Post's newest employee gave up his guitar for a day to find out how hard working with mail can be, especially when it meant starting at 5 a.m.

"I don't think I knew before doing this show that there was a 5 a.m. as well as a 5 p.m.," joked Robertson, who spent the day delivering and sorting mail around the city and working at a retail outlet.

The third season of the show will feature Vancouver in two more episodes when Robertson handles baggage for Air Canada and lays fibre optic cable for Bell.

His band, best known for the hits If I Had A Million Dollars and One Week, will return to the studio this fall.

»news In Brief

» **MAYOR** Port Coquitlam's embattled mayor has once again refused to resign following his conviction on two counts of assault last week, CBC News Online reports. Mayor Scott Young pleaded guilty to assaulting his former girlfriend and her boyfriend.

» **CAREERS** The RCMP announced yesterday it is holding a women's recruitment drive and career forum in Victoria. The presentation will be held June 4 at 5:30 p.m. at the Delta Victoria Ocean Pointe hotel.

» **FISH** Federal scientists are working to solve the mystery of why B.C.'s Pacific salmon is disappearing while other species, such as hake, are thriving, CBC News Online reports. METRO NEW SERVICES

ADVERTISING FEATURE

The Beasley: it all starts from the ground up

By Andrew King

Sustainability, live/work, and livability were just a few of the words used by Vancouver's former city planner, Larry Beasley. Now, Yaletown's last residential property, The Beasley, incorporates its namesake's unique vision of creating a downtown neighbourhood by providing the latest amenities that will bring a sense of community indoors.

By borrowing from the retired city planner's philosophy, the team at Amacon Development wanted to build a neighbourhood from within for its residents, who, for some, will live and work at The Beasley, including their K-9 friends. To achieve this, the building's amenities have been designed to reflect the vibrant lifestyles that exist in Yaletown to help residents maintain their busy lives without having to step outside.

At The Beasley, it all starts from the ground up.

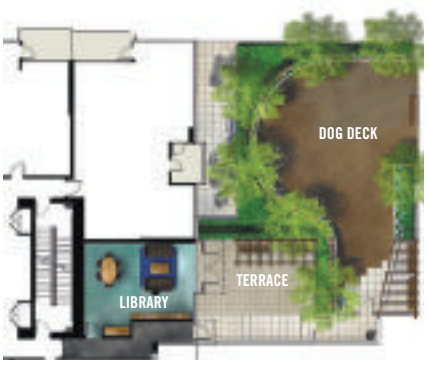
For many people, working out is an important part of their daily routine, but it can take up a lot of time that cuts into a social life, something designers had in mind when they decided to include a fully equipped fitness facility, with free weights, treadmills and Elliptical equipment, just beyond the lobby entrance.

The ground floor level will also house a large social room. Perfect for parties, holding the room will include a big screen TV area and a pool table, a small kitchen, dining room, and a terrace for taking advantage of the city's great summer days and nights.

Going to the Dogs

The people at Amacon have gone a step further to make The Beasley the best residence Vancouver has to offer, and not just for humans.

Perhaps one of the most unique amenities offered in the building is the eighth-floor library/meeting room that opens to a lush, green terrace. Perfect for sun soaked days spent relaxing high above Homer Street. However, this terrace is unlike any other, with a specially designed dog park, giving residents a way to stay at home to exercise their four-legged friends while enjoying an opportunity to socialize with neighbours.



8TH FLOOR AMENITY - MEETING ROOM/LIBRARY, TERRACE & DOG DECK

"They've had them in New York, Toronto and other places, but this is the first time it's ever been done in Vancouver," said Amacon sales associate Judy Graham.

The terrace will have a bark-mulched landscaped and a patio area with some seating. And to keep the building's hallways tidy there will be a dog wash station for people to clean-up their dogs before they go inside.

The Dog Deck was designed with both the interests of people with and without pets by providing dog owners with a convenient alternative to taking their dogs down to the park and allowing those who aren't as fond of pets to see fewer dogs in The Beasley's lobby.

"It works really for dog lovers and people who aren't so pet friendly," added Graham. "You don't need a dog to pass through the door."

Multiple floor plans are still available for the 34 storey tower, with units starting at $400,000 that all include a parking stall and a storage locker.

For more information, contact Judy Graham 604-669-7343 or visit thebeasley.com.

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canada

The diocese of Huron in southwestern Ontario voted this week to become the fourth in the Anglican Church of Canada to support same-sex unions, the Church announced yesterday. The Church has run afoul of the worldwide Anglican community for allowing same-sex blessings. REUTERS

Exit plan in question

Top-secret Afghan strategy was in Bernier's possession

detailed outline

» The document in question reportedly provides a detailed outline of how and when the more than 47,000 alliance troops would be able to leave Afghanistan based on progress in training police, soldiers and local bureaucrats and defeating corruption and drug production.

Maxime Bernier had a host of classified information at his fingertips that he may have left in possession of ex-girlfriend Julie Couillard, but likely none more sensitive than details of a top secret paper described as an exit strategy for the mission in Afghanistan.

A number of current and former officials concede that shoddy handling of the secret NATO Afghan plan, signed in the first week of April, represents a worst-case scenario for the government.

Whether or not the information fell into the wrong hands in that time, the situation highlights Prime Minister Stephen Harper's "appalling lack of judgment" in backing his chief diplomat, the opposition says.

"The prime minister has never taken this issue seriously," said Liberal foreign affairs critic Bob Rae.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tory travel expense records altered

The Conservative government has twice altered expense records for international trips after Torstar News Service questioned the high cost of the excursion.

The records on a publicly available website were changed — thousands of dollars removed in one case and a lengthy journey shortened in another — for past trips involving then-foreign affairs minister Maxime Bernier and Brian Jean, parliamentary secretary to the minister of transport.

In both cases the government refused to provide the printed records — tickets, hotel records — that would verify the change.

The travel records are kept on the federal government's website under the heading Proactive Disclosure.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ottawa **Net neutrality**

TIM WIECLAWSKI/METRO OTTAWA

Kim Farr, left, and Mandy Lewis were among a large crowd that rallied on Parliament Hill yesterday in support of net neutrality, as a Supreme Court of Canada ruling looms on Bell's practice of slowing the speed of third-party Internet providers.

»news In Brief

» **FREEFALL** French parachutist Michael Fournier's bid to set a world freefall record was in doubt yesterday after the balloon that was to carry him 40 km above North Battleford, Sask., separated from its gondola and floated away before takeoff.

» **HOUSING** The federal government must implement a national strategy to tackle a shortage of affordable housing that has reached "crisis" levels in Canadian cities, Liberal MPs urge in a new urban blueprint to be released today. The blueprint points to the "dramatic shortage" of affordable housing as the main issue. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Case says implant warnings ignored

Failure to act on warnings was negligent: Lawyer

The federal government knew as early as 1962 that silicone gel breast implants posed serious health hazards, but did nothing for 30 years, the Ontario Court of Appeal heard yesterday.

Health Canada's own scientists examined Dow Corning implants and recommended they be banned in 1978, but they remained in use until 1992 — despite studies showing they ruptured between five and 32 per cent of the time, the court was told.

"At the very least, they (federal officials) could have issued a warning," said Kirk Baert, a lawyer representing women who say they became severely disabled after being fitted with implants.

The case is one of a series of lawsuits launched around the world over alleged breast implant failures.

> «*At the very least, they (federal officials) could have issued a warning.*»
>
> *Lawyer Kirk Baert*

Baert argued the health department's failure to ban the implants or warn of their dangers amounts to negligence.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

»news In Brief

» **ENVIRONMENT** Tainted water has been leaking into the Athabasca River at a rate of 67 litres per second for more than 30 years, says a report obtained by the Alberta Liberals yesterday. The report, prepared for Suncor in November 2007, says about five million litres of the toxic water has leaked from the Tar Island tailings pond into the soil near the river each day since the 1960s, enough to fill five Olympic-sized swimming pools.

» **ALBERTA** The RCMP is investigating a suspicious death after two tourists found a body near Lake Louise on Monday. Police said the tourists were walking from Lake Louise to the lake when they discovered the Regina man, believed to be in his 30s.

» **CALGARY** Police have arrested two men accused of impersonating police officers. The two men drove a dark green Honda Accord with a blue flashing light on the roof, and were allegedly attempting to pull vehicles over. In one case, the suspects approached three young females and demanded they get into the car, but the girls ran away and called police.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Edmonton **New arrival**

VICTORIA HANDYSIDES/METRO EDMONTON

Veterinarian Milton Ness feeds ringtail lemur Renne with one of her two new babies at Edmonton's Valley Zoo yesterday. Lemurs are endangered, with fewer than 100,000 remaining in the world.

Prince George

Fires lead to local state of emergency

MILL A fire has badly damaged Canfor Corp.'s plywood mill in Prince George, one of three big blazes to strike the city overnight, officials said yesterday.

Prince George was forced to declare a local state of emergency after embers from the Canfor blaze apparently triggered two other major fires in the northern community. REUTERS

climate change

Carbon tax called into question

ENVIRONMENT Ontario premier Dalton McGuinty said yesterday that Stephane Dion's proposal of a carbon tax on fuels and other products is not the best way to fight climate change.

In July, British Columbia will become the first jurisdiction in North America to introduce a consumer-based carbon tax, but McGuinty said yesterday he prefers a cap-and-trade system.

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world

Restrictions by U.S. East Coast states on harvesting horseshoe crabs, left, whose eggs provide food for endangered migrating shore birds, have boosted the animal's population after years of over-fishing, experts say. REUTERS

Myanmar extends Suu Kyi's detention

Western nations dismayed by junta's decision

Myanmar's junta extended the house arrest of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday, a move that dismayed some of the Western nations who promised millions of dollars in aid after cyclone Nargis.

Officials drove to the Nobel laureate's lakeside Yangon home to read out an extension order in person, said a government official, who asked not to be identified.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who just returned to New York from a weeklong aid mission in Myanmar, expressed disappointment but refrained from sharp criticism.

He added that his special envoy for Myanmar, Ibrahim Gambari, would raise the issue of Suu Kyi with the junta.

The 62-year-old Suu Kyi, whose National League for Democracy party won a 1990 election by a landslide only to be denied power by the army, has now spent nearly 13 of the last 18 years under some form of arrest.

Her latest period of detention started on May 30, 2003, "for her own protection" after clashes between her supporters and pro-junta thugs in the northern town of Depayin. The last of a series of yearlong extensions expired yesterday.

Although few expected Suu Kyi to be released, the extension is a timely reminder of the ruling military's refusal to make any concessions on the domestic political front despite its grudging acceptance of foreign help after the May 2 cyclone.

UN praised

» State-controlled media yesterday praised the United Nations for the help it has given to the 2.4 million people left destitute in the Irrawaddy delta, suggesting some thawing in the junta's frosty relationship with the outside world.

Moscow **Fine art**

SERGEI KARPUKHIN/REUTERS

A visitor looks at art by Konstantin Khudyakov at the Moscow Fine Art Fair yesterday. Wealthy Russians who can't spare the millions needed to buy headline art from Europe and the U.S. are snapping up cheaper contemporary works from Russia.

»news In Brief

» **LEAK** At least 100 people were admitted to hospital yesterday after inhaling chlorine gas leaking from a water treatment plant in Jamshedpur township, which is run by Indian car maker Tata Motors, officials said.

» **DATA** Newly diagnosed cases of post-traumatic stress disorder among U.S. troops sent to Iraq and Afghanistan surged 46.4 per cent in 2007, bringing the five-year total to nearly 40,000, according to U.S. military data released yesterday.

» **RELIEF** The United Nations said yesterday it had raised roughly 60 per cent of its initial $200 million target for aid for cyclone-ravaged Myanmar, where aid workers were now experiencing fewer access problems.

» **NUCLEAR** Germany said yesterday the international community must push for a faster response from Iran over its nuclear program, while Washington said a new UN report suggested Tehran wanted to acquire nuclear weapons. REUTERS

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Tried the new Melissa tablets

"As my sleep problem seemed to get worse with time, I looked into what could help. I read about Lemon Balm and how it can make you relax and sleep better. I went to my local health food store to get advice and they recommended a new Scandinavian product, called Melissa, which is a natural formula of extracts – among these Lemon balm and Chamomile."

Amazing to wake up after a sound night of sleep

"Now I have used Melissa for a week and it works wonderfully. I feel fantastic. I take the tablets one hour before bedtime, and feel the relaxation after only 30 minutes. Falling asleep feels natural and I find my sleep is much deeper than before. It's an amazing feeling to wake up after a long night of sound sleep!"

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Witness testifies he gave Olmert cash

Israeli PM facing bribery probe

A U.S. businessman at the centre of a bribery case against Prime Minister Ehud Olmert testified yesterday he gave the Israeli leader cash-stuffed envelopes including personal loans that were never repaid.

Morris Talansky told the Jerusalem District Court he had passed $150,000 to the veteran politician over a 15-year period, praising Olmert as "a man who could accomplish a great deal" for Israel and who deserved his support.

"I gave (Olmert) cash in envelopes," Talansky, a New York-based fundraiser, said in preliminary testimony requested by prosecutors.

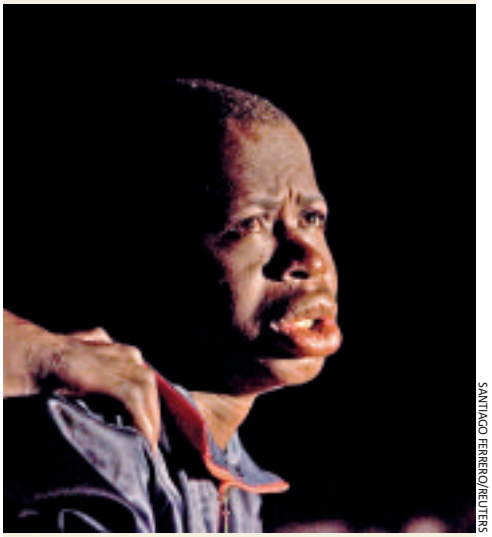
Both Olmert and Talansky have denied any wrongdoing in the case that has raised questions about the prime minister's political survival at a time when he is talking peace with the Palestinians and pursuing indirect negotiations with Syria.

Olmert, 62, has said he will resign if indicted, but chief prosecutor Moshe Lador said it was too early to say if an indictment would be issued and that a decision would only be taken on completion of the police probe. REUTERS

handing it over

» Talansky said he handed over sums ranging from $5,000 to $15,000 at a time, in Israel or in hotel suites during visits Olmert made to New York before becoming PM.

Spain **Migrants caught**



SANTIAGO FERRERO/REUTERS

A would-be immigrant rests after arriving at Granadilla yesterday on Spain's Canary island of Tenerife. Sixty-six would-be immigrants were intercepted aboard a fishing boat on their way to European soil from Africa, according to authorities.

»news
In Brief

» **TASER** A quick shock from a Taser may have zapped a man's fluttering heart back into a healthy rhythm, doctors reported yesterday.

» **TOLL** More than 50 people have been killed in political violence since Zimbabwe's disputed March 29 elections and 25,000 have fled their homes, opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai said yesterday.

» **AMNESTY** Chile's armed forces are still shielding their own from justice for killings and torture during Augusto Pinochet's iron-fisted 1973-1990 dictatorship, Amnesty International charged late yesterday.

» **EVACUATIONS** China has evacuated more than 150,000 people living below a swollen lake formed by this month's devastating earthquake amid fears it could burst and trigger massive flooding, state media said yesterday.

REUTERS

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Peru will sign free-trade deals with Canada and Singapore this week, President Alan Garcia said, as the Andean country aggressively pursues trade after landing a landmark deal with the United States. REUTERS

quarterly

BMO, Scotiabank post lower profits

BANKS Two of Canada's Big Six chartered banks kicked off the spring quarterly earnings season yesterday by revealing lower profits and higher provisions for credit losses.

Net income fell 3 per cent at Bank of Montreal to $642 million. Scotiabank, with greater international operations than BMO, said net income fell 6 per cent to $980 million.

Spectrum bids begin

Airwaves auction set to open up wireless market

concentration of control

» The three big players — Rogers Communications Inc., Telus Corp. and BCE Inc. — currently control about 95 per cent of the wireless market in terms of revenue.

The federal government launched an auction of wireless spectrum yesterday that it hopes will bolster competition and lower prices by allowing new players to break into the cellular phone market.

In a process that Industry Minister Jim Prentice estimates could take up to a month to complete, 24 companies can bid electronically on 292 licences for chunks of wireless airwaves in different geographical regions across the country.

Of the 105 megahertz (MHz) of spectrum to be auctioned, 40 MHz will be set aside for new players.

Newcomers include Quebecor Inc., Manitoba Telecom Services (MTS) and Shaw Communications Inc. REUTERS

Don't sell Arctic rights: Environmental group

WWF says wildlife not protected

A major environmental group formally urged Ottawa yesterday not to proceed with plans to sell oil and gas rights in the Beaufort Sea in Canada's Arctic, saying not enough had been done to protect the area's wildlife.

WWF-Canada said the planned June 2 sale contravenes a law that requires a management plan to be set up for the region before the rights can be sold.

"This sale is premature due to the absence of a ... plan that would protect sensitive habitats, which polar bears, beluga and bowhead whales need for their survival," Peter Ewins, the group's director of species conservation, said at news conference. REUTERS

»news
In Brief

» **DELL** A New York judge ruled against Dell Inc. yesterday, saying the computer maker engaged in fraud, false advertising, deceptive business and abusive debt collection practices. The judge said Dell lured customers with advertisements offering "no interest" or "no payment" financing options, but its financing arm would charge higher rates.

» **AIRWAYS** Low-fare U.S. carrier JetBlue Airways Corp. said yesterday it plans to defer delivery of 21 Airbus A320 aircraft for up to five years, citing current high fuel costs.

» **HERSHEY** Shares of Hershey Co. rose more than 9 per cent yesterday on renewed speculation the company could hook up with one of its remaining rivals — such as Cadbury or Nestle — in order to compete with a merged Mars and Wrigley. REUTERS

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sports

Winnipeg Blue Bombers wide receiver Milt Stegall, left, the CFL's all-time touchdown leader, will not be participating in this year's training camp due to a knee injury. No date has been set for his return. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Pens look to bounce back

Team to use anger as motivation in Game 3

On the 200-kilometre stretch of highway from Erie, Pa., to Pittsburgh, there were no fewer than 21 deer carcasses on the shoulders of the southbound lanes yesterday.

Around here, the only other species to have almost as tough a Memorial Day weekend was the Penguins. They also were road kill; rolled over with machine-like efficiency by the Detroit Red Wings in the first two games of the Stanley Cup final.

It's a desperate situation for the Penguins as they prepare to play Game 3 on home ice tonight. Only two teams in NHL history have rallied from an 0-3 series deficit. The Pens, who have rarely touched the puck, let alone scored in the series, can't be counted on to become the third.

But instead of freezing in the headlights, the Pens are flailing back. In lieu of offence, they are desperately trying to manufacture some passion, settling for cheap shots on and off the ice when they can't create any shots on it.

"Hopefully we've built a little of that anger up and we can use that to our advantage," Pittsburgh veteran Gary Roberts said yesterday.

It was Roberts, while trying to do just that late in Game 2, who hit Detroit's Johan Franzen in the head with a gloved left hand. Franzen had just returned from a six-game absence due to concussion symptoms. The 42-year-old Roberts later claimed it was an accidental shoulder that hit Franzen.

"Does he have shoulder pads on his hands?" wondered an incredulous Detroit coach Mike Babcock.

Roberts said Franzen, who fell to the ice and remained there for a few moments, was putting on a show with his theatrics.

"He obviously embellished it," Roberts said. "If my glove got in his face, by no means was it a punch that should knock a guy down like that. He shouldn't be playing if he falls that easily."

It was a clever salvo in what could have become an escalating war of words. That's tough to create, however, when one team won't play along. "We have thick skin," responded Detroit forward Kris Draper. "The bottom line is we're trying to win hockey games." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

JASON COHN/REUTERS

Penguins captain Sidney Crosby prepares to shoot the puck against teammate Dany Sabourin during practice yesterday ahead of tonight's Game 3 of the Stanley Cup final in Pittsburgh. Crosby and the Pens have yet to score in the series.

Allen ready to move on

Damon Allen is finally ready to hang up his helmet.

The 44-year-old former B.C. Lions quarterback and future hall of famer is expected to announce his much-anticipated retirement today.

Allen, who played for the Lions from 1996-2002, leaves as pro football's all-time leading passer with 72,381 yards thrown in 24 CFL seasons. He is a three-time Grey Cup MVP and was the 2005 CFL Most Outstanding Player.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

SCOREBOARD

NHL

STANLEY CUP FINAL
PITTSBURGH VS. DETROIT
Game 3 — Tonight
Detroit at Pittsburgh, 5
Game 4 — Saturday
Detroit at Pittsburgh, 5
*Game 5 — Monday
Pittsburgh at Detroit, 5
*Game 6 — Wednesday, June 4
Detroit at Pittsburgh, 5
*Game 7 — Saturday, June 7
Pittsburgh at Detroit, 5
(Detroit leads series 2-0)
(* – if necessary)

NBA

CONFERENCE FINALS
EASTERN CONFERENCE
BOSTON VS. DETROIT
Game 5 — Tonight
Detroit at Boston, 5:30
Game 6 — Friday
Boston at Detroit, 5:30
*Game 7 — Sunday
Detroit at Boston, 5:30
(Series tied 2-2)

WESTERN CONFERENCE
L.A. LAKERS VS. SAN ANTONIO
Game 4 — Last night
L.A. Lakers at San Antonio
Game 5 — Tomorrow
San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, 6
*Game 6 — Saturday
L.A. Lakers at San Antonio, 6:30
*Game 7 — Monday
San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, 6
(L.A. Lakers lead series 2-1)
(* – if necessary)

MLB

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
AMERICAN LEAGUE
Cleveland 8 Chicago W. Sox 2
Texas 12 Tampa Bay 6
Baltimore 10 N.Y. Yankees 9 (11 ings)
Minnesota 4 Kan. City 3 (12 ings)
L.A. Angels 3 Detroit 2
Oakland 3 Toronto 1
Seattle 4 Boston 3
NATIONAL LEAGUE
Chicago Cubs 3 L.A. Dodgers 1
N.Y. Mets 5 Florida 3
Cincinnati 9 Pittsburgh 3
Milwaukee 3 Atlanta 2
Houston 8 St. Louis 2
Philadelphia 7 Colorado 4
San Francisco 6 Arizona 3
San Diego 4 Washington 2

TODAY'S GAMES
AMERICAN LEAGUE
Chicago W. Sox at Cleveland, 9:05
Texas at Tampa Bay, 9:40
N.Y. Yankees at Baltimore, 4:05
Minnesota at Kansas City, 5:10
Toronto at Oakland, 7:05
Detroit at L.A. Angels, 7:05
Boston at Seattle, 7:10
NATIONAL LEAGUE
Colorado at Philadelphia, 4:05
Florida at N.Y. Mets, 4:10
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 4:10
Atlanta at Milwaukee, 5:05
L.A. Dodgers at Chicago Cubs, 5:05
Houston at St. Louis, 5:15
San Francisco at Arizona, 6:40
Washington at San Diego, 7:05

Kobe carries Lakers again

Los Angeles leads Western final 3-1

LAKERS 93 SPURS 91

Kobe Bryant carried the Lakers on his back once again, scoring 28 points with 10 rebounds to put Los Angeles within one victory of the NBA final after a 93-91 victory over defending champion San Antonio in Game 4 of the Western Conference final last night at San Antonio.

The Lakers lead the best-of-seven series 3-1 with Game 5 set for tomorrow night at Los Angeles. Lamar Odom posted 16 points and nine rebounds for Los Angeles, while Pau Gasol added 10 points and 10 rebounds.

The Lakers took a commanding series lead and snapped San Antonio's 13-game playoff home winning streak in the process.

Tim Duncan posted another playoff double-double with 29 points and 17 rebounds, while Tony Parker and Brent Barry added 23 points apiece. Manu Ginobili, one game after going off for a game-best 30 points, scored just seven points on 2-of-8 shooting. METRO NEWS SERVICES

RONALD MARTINEZ/GETTY IMAGES

Los Angeles Lakers Kobe Bryant, left, and Sasha Vujacic, right, reach for a loose ball with San Antonio Spurs Brent Berry during Game 4 of the NBA Western Conference final last night.

golf

Woods on track for Open return

HEALTH Tiger Woods is aiming to return from knee surgery at next month's U.S. Open, the world No. 1 said yesterday.

The 32-year-old PGA superstar had hoped to be able to play in this week's Memorial tournament in Dublin, Ohio, an event he has won three times in his career, but decided he was not ready to return.

horse racing

Big Brown gets back on the track

HEALTH Triple Crown hopeful Big Brown got back on the track yesterday for his first workout since being diagnosed with a stress fracture in his left front hoof.

The Kentucky Derby and Preakness champion has recovered from the injury, his owners said, and he jogged a mile-and-a-half at Belmont Park, the site of the Belmont Stakes on June 7.

tennis

Mauresmo battles into second round

VICTORY Former world No. 1 Amelie Mauresmo advanced to the second round of the French Open with a hard-earned 7-5, 4-6, 6-1 win over Ukraine's Olga Savchuk yesterday.

The Frenchwoman was one of only 13 victors yesterday as rain sliced more than seven hours off the day's play.

soccer

Toronto FC open tourney with win

OPENER Marco Velez scored the lone goal as Toronto FC beat the Montreal Impact 1-0 on the opening game of the Nutrilite Canadian Championship last night.

The winner of the three-team tournament, which includes the Vancouver Whitecaps, will represent Canada in the CONCACAF Champions League.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

workology

Accountemps recently cited seven common job search mistakes with one of them being: Adopting a one-size-fits-all approach. Make sure you tailor each resumé and cover letter to the particular job opportunity. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Social work means action

System source for societal problems, student says

By **KRISTA MARTIN**
for Metro Vancouver

what's in the course

- What: Social Work (Bachelor or Masters program)
- Where: University of British Columbia
- Requirements: depending on program, but social work background helps. Bachelor required for Masters program.
- How long: 2 years for MSW, 4 years for BSW.
- For more information: *swfs.ubc.ca.*

It takes more than social skills to do well in the social work Masters program at the University of British Columbia, and Becky Hynes can tell you this first-hand.

Hynes said she chose the discipline because it enables her the possibility of changing social injustices that occur on a daily basis.

"I decided on social work because it was the first thing I had learned about that I could really translate into action," she said.

Hynes said it took her a few years to decide on a career. Previously, she enrolled in various courses such as anthropology, philosophy and art history before she learned about the social work program.

Upon completing a BA in Social Work from the University of Victoria, the 29-year-old decided to enrol in the Masters program at UBC.

"The great thing about social work is that we are always learning about theory in a way that translates into real life," Hynes said.

Professor Edward Kruk said that the program deals with social problems revolving around individual distress and mental problems.

"It is assumed that individuals must adapt to sometimes oppressive social conditions," he said.

"The social work targets the system for change because the system is the source of the problem."

The course load, which includes practical and theory courses, also contains a field placement so students can apply their skills to real-life situations.

Kruk said the career outlook for social work is good.

"Social work is such an essential service, although some governments find it to be critical toward government policies," he said.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Becky Hynes decided on social work as a career path because it could be translated into action.

Hynes offered some advice for future students: "Get political and challenge yourself," she said.

"Don't be afraid to do things differently."

Etch your future in jewelry

Vancouver college offers setting to launch career

By **DONNA NG**
for Metro Vancouver

High-tech graphic designs and contemporary metalwork are joining forces for a year-end celebration show.

Students of Vancouver Community College's jewelry design and digital graphic design programs are celebrating the end of a school year and graduation by showcasing their months of hard work.

From large wearable pieces of jewelry to graphic designs incorporating wallpaper, the show will feature pieces that will be far from "traditional gold rings and what not," said Arleigh Kurucz, a jewelry program graduate.

"Everyone is brand new so the pieces are fresh and enthusiastic," said Rochelle Garrison, a digital graphic design graduate. "Everyone has a different background so you really get a variety of work."

Kurucz's display will showcase pieces based on labyrinths with her main pieces being acid-etched sterling silver with gold plating.

"It's titled 'Walk On Your Path,' and it's a fitting to end my two years with a theme based on journeys," she added.

"It's a work show with purpose. It's art as communication," said Garrison.

The VCC Jewelry and Digital Graphic Design Show is free and runs until June 7 at the main lobby of the college's downtown campus, located at Dunsmuir Street and Hamilton Street. The college closes at 10 p.m.

keep those yearbooks

» If one of your school or university colleagues ended up famous or rich, you could have a hidden asset — your old yearbook — especially if your celebrity classmate signed it. *AbeBooks.com*, an online seller of used, rare and out-of-print books, has found collectors are paying increasing amounts for their favorite star's yearbook with the annuals from schools and universities always limited editions and out-of-print, so rare. "A yearbook is something special in that not everyone can get their hands on one, making them a valuable edition for any collection," Scott Laming from AbeBooks said. REUTERS

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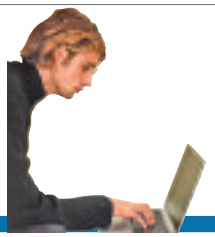


Accountemps recently cited seven common job search mistakes, one of them being: Remaining in the dark. Applicants should always uncover beyond-the-basics knowledge of the job by researching on the Internet.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

A 'calming force' in troubled times

UBC grad honoured as humanitarian

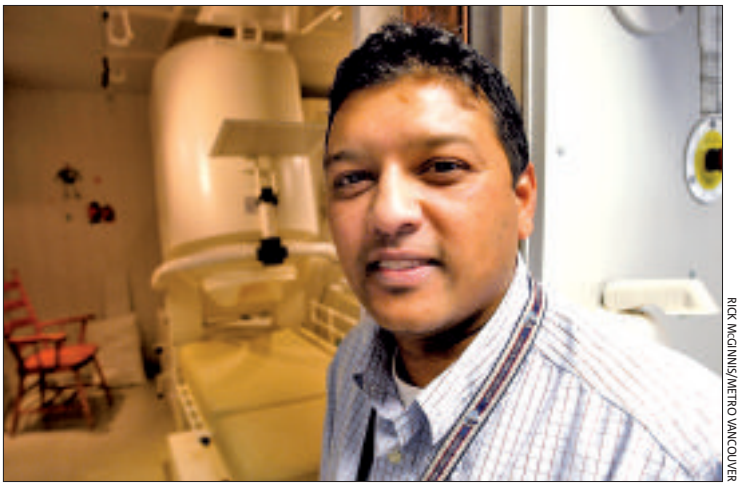
By **RICK McGINNIS**
for Metro Vancouver

The technology that Roy Sharma works with at Sick Kids Hospital was the stuff of science fiction a few decades ago, and it ranges from EEG and MRI machines to even more specialized equipment that will lay out the brain's activity into a grid, or measure every bit of magnetic activity it issues to the nervous system. It has the potential to be powerfully intimidating to adults, so it takes a very special skill to help children relax and be comfortable while it's being used to produce life-saving data.

Sharma's official title is Team Leader of the Neurophysiology Department at Sick Kids, where he's worked for 28 years after training at UBC and the British Columbia Institute of Technology in electrophysiology. He recently received the hospital's Robert Salter Humanitarian Award for his work, having been nominated by his colleagues for his dedication, and his "patience and compassion with children and families." One letter of recommendation described him as a "calming force" with a little boy panicking before epilepsy surgery.

difficult patients

» One letter described how Sharma's "encouragement and patience has enabled Roy to be able to acquire EEG/MEG data on some very difficult patients, who otherwise would've required sedation."



RICK McGINNIS/METRO VANCOUVER

UBC graduate Roy Sharma stands in the MEG machine at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children.

"Working here is a different environment than most places," Sharma says. "Because you're working with kids it's a challenging environment, but it's a unique environment where you can make a difference. The kids are so different, they're needy sometimes, they can be difficult and if you provide a good environment for them to cooperate — so the things we do here that are unique are, a child may need sedation for a procedure, but we try to use our charm and our personalities and skills to avoid the sedation."

With a focus on epilepsy treatment and research, Sharma's team is able to use conventional EEG machines as well as cutting edge machines like the Magneto Encephelogram (MEG) to help surgeons work from three-dimensional visualizations of brain activity.

"There's a long term bond we develop with the doctors, and it's unique to Sick Kids," Sharma says. "In some ways there's no separation between technologist and physician — we're like a team."

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Resignation favours employees

WORKPLACE LAW
DANIEL LUBLIN
dan@canadaemploymentlawyer.com

Canadian employees have no right to severance pay if voluntarily leaving their job. They may claim this is unfair — but not so fast: the laws of resignation generally work in their favour.

Employees tendering their resignation are sometimes free to withdraw it and continue as before. Just ask top-gun computer executive Andrew Kieran, who's employer, Ingram Micro, proposed to accept his "resignation" after he indicated that he wouldn't work for a rival employee expected to receive a promotion. But the Ontario Court of Appeal concluded Kieran was free to change his mind, as long as Ingram hadn't already accepted the resignation in action or conduct.

Even an obvious indication of an intention to resign does not make it so. When, in a blaze of fury, Susan Lelievre demanded a severance package, fired off a number of e-mails announcing her last day of work, packed up her belongings and then left, her employer, AIG Insurance, concluded that she had resigned. However, AIG made one fatal mistake: relying on Lelievre's statements that she was leaving, management did not step in to outline her options. Instead, the court ruled, by demanding the return of all company property, it effectively terminated her employment.

To get the full scoop on resignation law and read the entire article, go to *Metronews.ca*.

Daniel A. Lublin is a lawyer practising in the law of wrongful dismissal. His e-mail is dan@canadaemploymentlawyer.com

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Accountemps recently cited seven common job search mistakes, with one of them being: Failing to proofread. Make sure your resumé and cover letter are error free. Be vigilant about spelling, grammar and punctuation in all your written communication. METRO NEWS SERVICES

How to feel good for a living

Self-esteem guru dishes on life, work, confidence

By **RAFAEL BRUSILOW**
for Metro Vancouver

With the third season of hit makeover show X-Weighted just airing on the Slice Network, the show's resident self-esteem guru Fred Connors walks the walk and talks the talk.

The confident, youthful 41-year-old with 25 years of experience as a stylist says looking good starts on the inside.

"How we look is directly related to how we feel. People are starting to realize their success in the world is based on how much self-esteem they have," Connors said.

X-Weighted follows obese Canadians trying to drop the fat and live healthier lifestyles and Connors helps participants want and strive for a better sense of self-worth to find satisfaction in their own lives. The key is getting people to step back and see how to use their proverbial lemons to make lemonade.

"I look at difficulty not as a disaster but as an opportunity. It's amazing how the process of self-exploration can lead people to personal fulfillment," Connors said.

> «*I look at difficulty not as a disaster but as an opportunity. It's amazing how the process of self-exploration can lead people to personal fulfillment.*»
> *Self-esteem guru Fred Connors*

Despite wearing many hats successfully — Connors is an accomplished stylist, clothing and cosmetics designer as well as a regular on X-Weighted — the one Connors identifies with most is that of entrepreneur — he runs his own hybrid café-spa-art gallery in Halifax.

True to form, he lives the very same lessons he teaches on X-Weighted.

"I've always been tactile and creative. I have an intuitive sense of how to relate to people and I'm very proud of the things I've been able to accomplish," Connors said.

"I'm very able to look at individuals and show them things that aren't working about themselves and whether their ideologies are aligned with what their goals in life are."

He thinks his ability to be frank is a big part of his success on the show.

"When I see someone who's in a dysfunctional relationship, I don't have that feeling of discomfort drawing attention to it if doing so will ultimately improve the quality of that relationship," he said.

Self-esteem is a two-way process that Connors says reflects not only your own thoughts and goals but also the way you relate to other people.

"The way we feel about ourselves, the way we feel about the people around us and the way we relate to our community all defines the way people perceive us," he said.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Fred Connors specializes in self-esteem.

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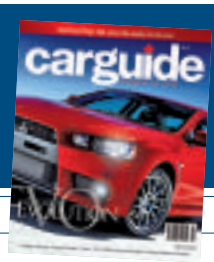

Something for everyone

Popular Corolla gets roomier, sportier

By **B. MCLAUCHLAN**
for Metro Vancouver

The new 2009 Corolla represents the 10th generation of this venerable Toyota nameplate.

With its arrival on the scene in early '08, the new 2009 Corolla represents the 10th generation of this venerable Toyota nameplate, which was first introduced to the world in 1966. Some 33 million people have bought one since then, making it the world's most popular car.

So, with that kind of public acceptance, it's not hard to believe Toyota would tread carefully in any redesign throughout its generational changes.

Its mandate for this 10th iteration was more sportiness, so witness the swoopier styling, which was co-developed by studios in Japan and Italy. Bearing some resemblance to a smaller-scale Camry, the '09 Corolla is fractionally longer overall than the previous model but sits on an unchanged wheelbase.

The big change lies in the Corolla's width, however, which increases by 60 mm to help provide a little more shoulder space inside. The car's height has also been shaved slightly and a wider track (the distance between the wheels on front and rear axles) gives this new Corolla a solid-looking stance and noticeably improved stability.

Interior room is essentially unchanged, but much appreciated is the new tilt/telescopic steering wheel (standard equipment on all models that enables driving positions to be customized to suit individual height and body type) and the airier confines of the surprisingly well-appointed cabin.

A new suspension design and electric power steering help contribute to a much sportier drive, even in the base Corolla CE model.

With its neat combination of value, verve, style and substance the $14,565 CE delivers more for less. An enviable list of standard features include: satellite-ready AM/FM/CD audio system with MP3/WMA capability, the already mentioned tilt/telescopic steering and electric power steering, as well as six airbags and an anti-lock braking system.

The step-up Corolla LE — $19,900 and available only with a four-speed automatic transmission — brings a bit more refinement, delivering a moveable feast of upscale features such as 16-inch alloy wheels (15-inch on the CE), push-button start, Optitron gauges, automatic climate control and woodgrain trim.

The $18,930 Corolla S shifts gears with its sport-inspired side skirt and rear spoiler add-ons, fog lamps, tinted headlamp housings, leather-wrapped steering wheel and an audio system that features six speakers and steering wheel-mounted controls. Opting for a four-speed automatic rather than the standard five-speed manual transmission adds $1,045.

2009 Toyota Corolla

- Type: Compact 5-pass. sedan FWD
- Price: $14,565 - $23,210
- Engine: 1.8L L4 DOHC/2.4L L4 DOHC
- HP: 132 @ 6,000 rpm/158 @ 6,000 rpm
- Torque: 128 @ 4,400 rpm/162 @ 4,000 rpm

Highlights:

- Better looking
- Sense of spaciousness
- Standard features
- Lots of choices to suit any budget

Much appreciated is the new tilt/telescopic steering wheel (standard on all models) and the airier confines of the surprisingly well-appointed cabin.

The CE, LE and S models draw their power from a new 1.8-litre four-cylinder engine rated at 132 horsepower — up six from before. It's an engine that's up to the task of everyday driving, with decent acceleration and good fuel economy.

For those aspiring to even more sportiness, a new Corolla XRS addition packs a 158 hp four-cylinder engine mated with a five-speed manual. The $21,655 XRS also adds 17-inch wheels, standard stability control, leather trim, sport seats, chrome exhaust tips and the same aero body bits as the S.

Any way you look at it, the Corolla has something for everyone.

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*MSRP for 2009 Vibe base (excluding freight). Freight ($1160), licence, insurance, registration, PPSA, administration fees, duties and taxes not included. Dealers are free to set individual prices.
† Whichever comes first. See dealer for limited warranty details. Applies to 2009 models. Excludes Medium-Duty Trucks.

According to Honda, the goal with this eighth-generation version is to provide Canadians with a vehicle that is "green, safe, fun."

Honda's convincing coupe

Accord impresses with style and performance

By **PHILIPPE CROWE**
for Metro Vancouver

2008 Honda Accord Coupe EX-L V6 Navi

- Type: Mid-size 5-pass coupe FWD
- Price: $38,290
- Engine: 3.5L V6 SOHC
- HP: 268 @ 6,200 rpm
- Torque: 248 @ 5,000 rpm

Highlights:

- Looks
- Powertrain
- Build quality
- Fun to drive

The redesigned 2008 Honda Accord came to market with an expanded range of innovative technologies designed for greater efficiency, enhanced safety and more power across the lineup.

According to Honda, the goal with this eighth-generation version is to provide Canadians with a vehicle that is "green, safe, fun," and includes an emphasis on expressive styling, fun-to-drive performance and innovative packaging. Some might argue with the innovative packaging part of that statement, but this new Accord sure is fun to drive, powerful and a good handler.

The coupe is available with two engine choices: The 'base' 2.4-litre four-cylinder engine, standard in the EX and EX-L models, pushes out 190 horsepower through either a 5-speed manual or 5-speed automatic transmission — if you opt for the auto add $1,200 to the EX's $27,990 and EX-L's $30,390 manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP).

The EX-L V6, as its name suggests, brings you a 268 hp 3.5-litre V6 mated with a standard five-speed automatic (with Grade Logic Control to minimize excessive gear shifting in hilly terrain) or six-speed manual. They command MSRPs of $35,490.

Our tester was an EX-L V6 with the six-speed manual, 18-inch wheels and leather seat trim. It also came equipped with the available satellite-linked Navigation System with bilingual voice recognition, which took the sticker price to $38,290.

We were impressed with its power, very good handling, lack of torque-steer (unless you are on slippery pavement) and the fantastic feel of the manual shift lever.

Along with its 268 hp — the most ever for any Accord — the V6 also brings a new generation of fuel-saving variable cylinder management (VCM) that shuts down two or three cylinders on the highway for improved fuel efficiency. Unfortunately, the VCM version can only be had with the automatic transmission, so the six-speed's mileage will reflect that fact.

But, regardless of which engine it's equipped with, the Accord Coupe remains a highly entertaining drive, with double-wishbone suspension front and rear and typically sharp Honda responses.

The larger interior is intended to provide 'equal' seating comfort for front and rear passengers.

Another innovation on the Coupe is its variable gear ratio (VGR) steering. This new system, which uses variable mechanical ratio steering in addition to variable power, provides better feel and greater responsiveness at larger steering angles. And, for once, such a feature actually works and is totally unobtrusive in the process.

The larger interior is intended to provide 'equal' seating comfort for front and rear passengers. There is more rear legroom and width to allow the front seats to be positioned farther apart for a wide centre. This helps give a nice airy feel to the cabin without having the occupants feeling like they are miles away from each other.

All in all, the 2008 Accord Coupe presents itself as a very viable alternative for those who are looking for Honda's reliability but also want to enjoy the driving experience. Kids will just have to get used to Mom's resigned sigh: "Daddy's having fun."

Mercedes roadster reaches milestone

With the delivery of the 500,000th SLK since its market launch in 1996, Mercedes-Benz has reached another milestone with its successful SLK compact roadster.

All in all, about 310,000 buyers opted for the first generation of this dynamic two-seater, and its successor has now sold 190,000 units since its market launch in March 2004.

"With the launch of the SLK in 1996, Mercedes-Benz successfully established the premium segment for compact roadsters. Thanks to innovative technology such as the vario-roof and the neck-level heating system AIRSCARF, the SLK has long been recognized as a cult car of modern times," explained Dr. Klaus Maier, Executive Vice President Mercedes-Benz Cars, responsible for Sales and Marketing.

debut

» The new-generation SLK made its world debut at the Detroit Motor Show in January.

One in every five SLKs goes to a North American buyer but Western Europe is by far the most important market, where the two-seat roadster was again the market leader for its segment in 2007.

Mercedes-Benz SLK

Observation and anticipation are among the techniques necessary for a good, safe drive.

Smooth operator behind wheels

Learning how to brake properly key to good driving

A good, safe drive is about a mixture of techniques, but high on the list must be the need to use your vehicle's brakes in a smooth and progressive way.

You can manage that by practicing observation and anticipation, so that you can begin braking at an early stage and a leave a decent margin for braking more heavily, if the need arises.

Many drivers tend to brake too late and too hard.

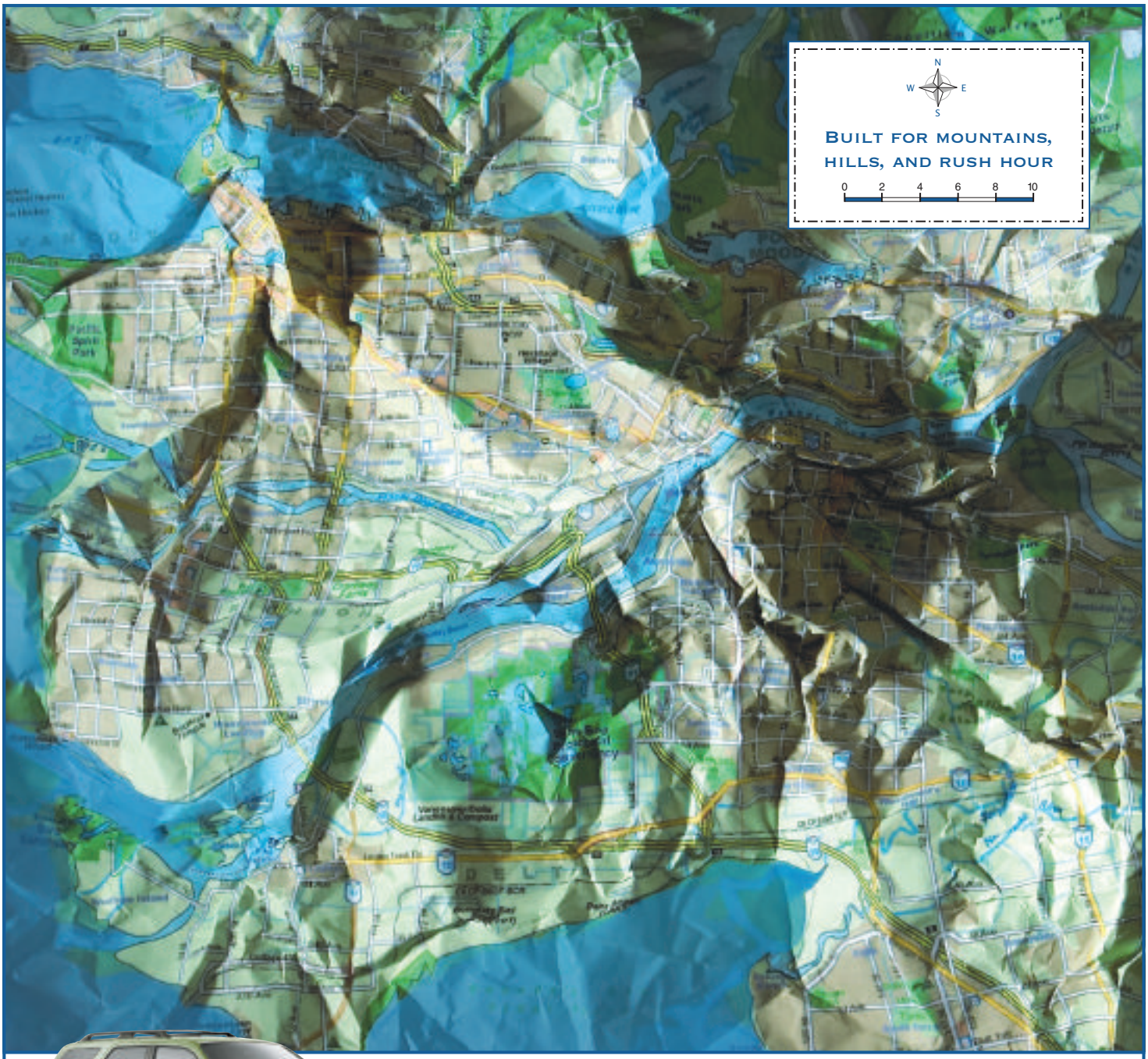
Arguably less dangerous but equally annoying, some drivers have the habit of 'comfort braking' — touching the brakes to enable themselves to feel better, even if they have no intention of slowing the car to any measurable degree.

They do so in the belief they are being careful drivers.

It is better by far to learn to read the road ahead; not only do you get early warning of developing hazards, you can respond by adjusting your speed using only your throttle.

Have you ever seen a "cascade" of brake lights ahead of you? An advanced driver will judge the speed and distances involved and, having left a decent gap, be able to follow in safety by letting the speed "fall away" and so avoiding the need to brake.

Think too about your positioning on the road. Can you maximize your forward view by putting your vehicle in a slightly different position on the road? This should not be an abrupt repositioning, but a smooth change in your line to enable you to see ahead that little bit better. Careful adjustment of road position improves the view ahead, particularly through corners.



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New Beetle turns 10

Redesigned model of iconic car still wowing drivers

Chalk up another milestone for Volkswagen. The German automaker is celebrating the 10th anniversary of the introduction of its New Beetle model.

Originally unveiled as a design study car called 'Concept 1' at the Detroit auto show in 1994, the New Beetle made its worldwide debut in 1998. Since then it has solidified its place in North American pop culture, transcending consumers' age, income, education and gender to connect classic Beetle enthusiasts with contemporary audiences.

"We are extremely proud to celebrate the anniversary of the New Beetle, an iconic vehicle that has made a remarkable impact on automotive and pop culture history," said Stefan Jacoby, President and CEO of Volkswagen of America, Inc.

Although it borrowed general design cues from its classic predecessor, the New Beetle remains a completely contemporary creation, evolving to incorporate engineering advances including a redesigned chassis and a water-cooled front engine.

> *« We are extremely proud to celebrate the anniversary of the New Beetle, an iconic vehicle that has made a remarkable impact on automotive and pop culture history. »*
>
> *Stefan Jacoby, CEO of Volkswagen America*

With its sloping headlamps, large round tail lamps and arched roofline, the vehicle features distinct styling.

In fact, its iconic silhouette is now considered the most easily recognized profile in automotive history, according to auto industry analyst J. D. Power and Associates.

Since the New Beetle Sedan's debut in 1998, Volkswagen has also launched a New Beetle Convertible model, featuring a three-layer cloth top with a heated glass rear window for year-round fun.

Since its introduction, over 1 million units have been produced worldwide.

Since its debut in 1998, the New Beetle has sold 1 million units worldwide.

Chrysler celebrates the manufacturing launch of the 2008 Dodge Challenger SRT8 at the Brampton Assembly Plant.

Chrysler readies Dodge Challenger

Chrysler has begun production of one of the industry's most highly anticipated vehicles, the all-new 2008 Dodge Challenger SRT8 model. It brings the Challenger name back into Chrysler's line-up as a modern muscle car.

The Challenger is built at Chrysler's Brampton Assembly Plant on the same Ontario assembly line as the Dodge Charger and the award-winning Chrysler 300.

"Even though the development time for this Dodge Challenger SRT8 is one of the shortest in Chrysler's history, the wait for this exciting car has been too long, and the wait is finally over!" said Frank Ewasyshyn, executive vice-president of manufacturing.

Nearly 1,000 employees and invited guests joined Ewasyshyn, Chrysler Canada president Reid Bigland and government officials for the celebratory roll-off.

production

» About 7,000 2008 model-year vehicles for North American markets will be produced before 2009 model-year vehicles begin production in August. For 2009, the company will offer three models: SE, R/T and SRT8.

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Coastal expert Dr. Stephen Leatherman, a.k.a. Dr. Beach, has named Caladesi Island State Park in Florida's St. Petersburg/Clearwater area as America's Top Beach for 2008.

METRO NEWS SERVICE

Following the fab four through NYC

Plan a visit that's dedicated to Sex And The City

By **EMMA E FORREST**
Metro World News

Glamorous women all over the world have had to wait no less than four years for the return of Carrie, Charlotte, Miranda and Samantha, the sassy heroines of the most fabulous show in television history, in Sex And The City: The Movie.

The film opens this Friday, but the anticipation has fuelled a wave of interest in touring the New York City hot spots where significant events took place in our heroines' lives throughout the course of the television series — the purchase of the perfect red stiletto, for instance, or the dispatching of an unsuitable suitor.

The obvious place to start is at Patricia Field's eccentric fashion emporium at 302 Bowery, between Bleecker and Houston St.

The stylist responsible for the looks sported by the SATC ladies, Field is responsible for transforming handbags and shoes into icons, with designer fashion brands clamouring to hAve. their clothes and accessories worn by our four trend-setting heroines.

Accessorising is always high on the agenda for Carrie's set. Hunt for utterly impractical sandals at the Jimmy Choo flagship in the Olympic Tower at 645 Fifth Ave., or at Manolo Blahnik at 31 West 54th St. Stock up on 'It'-handbags at YSL on 57th St, and Marc Jacobs at 301 West Fourth St, or at the cheaper Marc by Marc Jacobs store at 403-405 Bleecker St.

» For more information, visit NYC's official tourism site at *http://nycvisit.com/sexandthecity.*

Feel more Samantha than Carrie? Drop into Versace at 647 Fifth Ave. or Roberto Cavalli at 711 Madison Ave. to pick up something sexy in block red, yellow or gold. If you're more of a Miranda, pick up some sensible Calvin Klein or DKNY at Bloomingdales on 59th st.

For a prim, bourgeois Charlotte-style look, pick up classic skirts and jackets from Ralph Lauren or ultra-flattering cocktail dresses from Narcisco Rodriguez at Saks Fifth Avenue.

If Carrie's innovative styles are more your thing, pick up some pieces from new designers at Barneys COOP at 116 Wooster St., the department store's showcase store for cutting edge new designers.

If you were coveting a specific piece from any of the ladies' wardrobes, you can identify where it comes from with the comprehensive episode-by-episode fashion credits for the show at *www.hbo.com/city*.

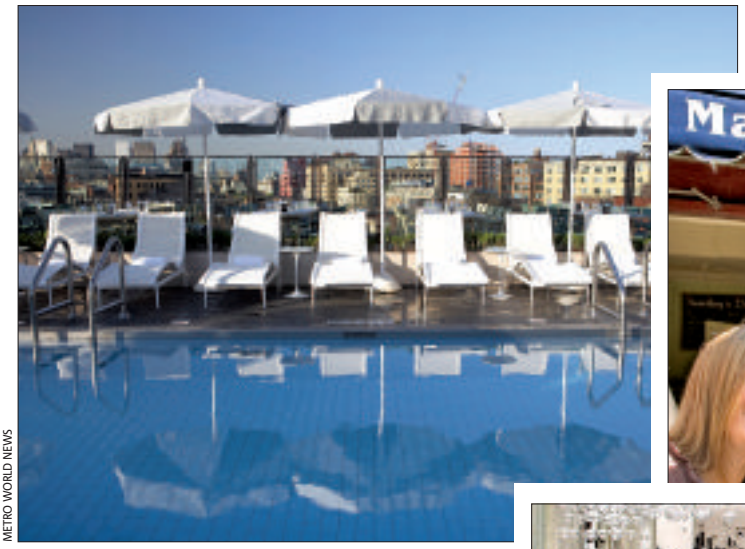
After raking the boutiques, stock up on Miranda and Carrie's favourite cupcakes at the famous Magnolia Bakery at 401 Bleecker St, before taking a break for a walk in Central Park, or peering through the window of the location that featured as the gallery that Charlotte managed, Louis K. Meisel Gallery at 141 Price St.

Have dinner at the restaurants and bars where the SATC girls meet to gossip, flirt and bump into ex-boyfriends including trendy pan-Asian restaurant Tao at 42 East 58th St, or French bistro Balthazar at 80 Spring st, or hip Japanese-Brazilian rooftop eatery Sushi Samba at 245 Park Ave. at 20th St.

Follow up with cocktails — Cosmopolitans, of course — at the girl's hangouts including Lotus (409 W 14th St), or Bungalow 8 (515 W 27th St), or get yourself connected and on the guest list for Soho House, the private member's club that Samatha gatecrashed and was caught out by Spice Girl Geri Halliwell (29-35 9th Ave.).

Looking for a late-night snack? Drop by 24-hour Grays Papaya at West 8th St at 6th Ave. where Carrie picked up typically New York hot dogs after her book launch.

All you need now is a hotel room that's a short trot in your new Choo shoes, and a late check out, so you can recover from your big night out, SATC-style.



METRO WORLD NEWS

The rooftop pool at Soho House, a private members' club in New York City. Samantha led the quartet in gatecrashing the club during an episode of Sex And The City.

ON LOCATION TOURS

Below, during a Sex And The City guided visit by On Location Tours, participants indulge in cupcakes from the celebrated Magnolia Bakery.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Left, the women's shoe department at Saks Fifth Avenue. Pricey heels were a staple of the series, and in one episode, Carrie actually gets mugged for her Manolo Blahniks.

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This photo shows a view from the rooftop of the Hotel Gansevoort in New York City. The hotel is among those offering Sex And The City-related packages.

sex and the city tours and packages

» Take your pick from these Sex And The City related offerings:

MANDARIN ORIENTAL NEW YORK

» Sex And The City Celebration Package includes a SATC Trivia game, two cocktails and a guided Sex and the City tour visiting locations including department store Henri Bendel, where you'll get a complimentary $200 gift card and a gift from lingerie designer Cosabella, which has just launched a SATC collection. From $2,000 US per night. *www.mandarinoriental.com/newyork*

HOTEL GANSEVOORT

» The Gansevoort's Sex And The City package gives guests discounts at Carrie's favourite boutiques including Completely Bare, Shelly Steffee, LuLu Guinness, Constanca Basto, Darling, Cynthia Rowley, Rebecca & Drew, Massimo Bizzocchi, Constantino Café, Abingdon 12, Bond No 9, Lucy Barnes and La Cafetiere.

» Celebrate your shopping day with a Cosmopolitan by the rooftop pool, then use your VIP passes to the Meat Packing District's hottest clubs including PM, Cielo, A.E.R., Dirty Disco, Home, Guest House, Studio Mezmor, Marquee, or Pink Elephant.

» Take advantage of late check-out so you can recover from your big night out while watching your complimentary Sex And The City DVD. From $575 for a Deluxe room.

ISANGO SEX AND THE CITY TOUR

» If you'd rather save money for your Manolos and stay in a cheap hotel, take this SATC tour. Isango's 3.5-hour guided luxury coach tour takes you to some of the main locations used in the TV show including the bakery where Carrie and Miranda buy cupcakes, the gallery where Charlotte worked, Aiden's furniture store, Steve and Aiden's bar, the house used as Carrie's apartment block in the show and locations from the movie. $42; see *www.isango.com*.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Planning a whirlwind girls' getaway in Manhattan

When it comes to girls-only vacations, Big Apple has it all

Manhattan is the perfect pick for a girls-only vacation. If you're looking to plan an itinerary inspired by Sex And The City — without slavishly following in the show's footsteps — here are a few suggestions:

CHECK IN: Among New York's long list of hip hotels (The Rivington, The Hudson and The W are my personal faves), the Hotel Roger Williams offers quaint accommodations in Manhattan's midtown district; *www.hotelrogerwilliams.com*.

RETAIL THERAPY: Not far from boutique saturated Soho, the Young Designers Market has a great selection of one-of-a-kind jewellery, hats and clothing. Open from 11 to 7 p.m., it's located at 268 Mulberry St. (between Prince and Houston) and entrance is free every Saturday and Sunday. From there, go bargain hunting for designer discounts at Filene's Basement (4 Union Sq. at E. 14th) or Century 21 (22 Cortlandt St. between Broadway and Church St.) For high-end apparel visit Fifth Avenue's Takashimaya, one of the world's largest chains of department stores.

SPA DIVAS: After a long day of sightseeing and shopping 'til you drop, take some time for a Vitamin Infusion Facial at the Mandarin Oriental's five-star spa. The relaxation begins a suggested 40 minutes before your actual treatment, with "heat experiences" — a bubbling pool of mineral water and a steam room that channels the healing powers of an amethyst crystal. The facial itself includes a collagen mask and a series of nutrient-infused creams massaged into the skin.

MICHAEL PORRO/GETTY IMAGES

This file photo shows New York City's iconic Empire State Building. Manhattan is the quintessential destination for a girls-only vacation, says Metro columnist Julia Dimon — even if you're not so keen to follow in the footsteps of the Sex And The City characters.

TRIPPY THEATRE: From the creators of the smash hit De La Guarda comes FuerzaBruta, a theatrical extravaganza of sound, light and waterworks.

This wordless show has the audience standing for 60 minutes, moving around the space, as fit performance artists writhe and run to techno music and strobe lights. If you don't mind waiting in line, $25 rush tickets go on sale two hours before the performance; *www.fuerzabruta.net*.

AFTER DARK — HUNKMANIA: It's Raining Men at Hunkmania is a so-called male review in which "certified hunks" take their clothes off for an energetic crowd of screaming, tipsy women.

It all takes place at Club Duvet, where rippling abs, bulging biceps and overpriced drinks are part of the package. Never-the-less, watching faux firemen and ninjas get down to their boxer-briefs is a fun, harmless way to let loose and get wild with the girls; *hunkmania.com*.

THE TRAVEL JUNKIE
JULIA DIMON
www.thetraveljunkie.ca

Freelance writer Julia Dimon is editor of The Travel Junkie and host of Word Travels, a new reality TV-series to be broadcast on OLN in 2008. Contact her at www.thetraveljunkie.ca.

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

MONK McQUEENS
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With Vancouver's annual spring rains wetting our streets, Monk McQueens has decided to fight back and whet your appetites. Monk's new spring menu features some tantalizing 'whet plates' guaranteed to make your taste buds sing! Delectable bites like lobster corndogs with citrus pesto aioli and baja king scallops with papaya caviar. These small teasers will truly sharpen your palate. New lunch and dinner menus are served on the heated, covered deck and indoors at Monk McQueens. Have a party or event coming up? Monks will customize a menu to suit your tastes and desires, just call to find out more.

Monks Oyster Bar: Lunch Menu

Baked Oyster Caprese **$15.00**
tomato marinara, basil pesto, teardrop bocconcini

Ancho-Chili & Coriander Crusted Ahi Tuna **$29.00**
baby shrimp ceviche, refried bean empanada, lime aioli

Lobster Corndogs **$16.00**
miso mustard, spicy cocktail & citrus pesto aioli

Grilled Tandoori Lamb Chop **$19.00**
haricote vertes, mint, toasted cashews, yam puree, yogurt drizzle

Seared Ahi Tuna & Tempura Prawns **$17.00**
rockette lettuce, sweet & sour watermelon, cilantro, ponzu emulsion

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

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604.609.0901
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books

James Bond returns in novel

LAUNCH A warship moored in the Thames and Royal Marines mounted guard yesterday to mark the return to action of the world's most famous spy, James Bond, in a new novel.

Devil May Care, published today, is the latest adventure for the hard-drinking, womanizing action hero created by Ian Fleming and adored by millions worldwide through 14 books and a series of blockbuster films.

Penned by British novelist Sebastian Faulks at the request of Fleming's estate, the novel is set in 1967 and portrays the aging licensed killer as vulnerable and damaged but with an undiminished sex drive. Publication marks the centenary of Fleming's birth. REUTERS

Morissette grows up

Alanis Morissette's new disc, Flavors Of Entanglement, is scheduled to be released June 10.

By **TALIA SOGHOMONIAN**
Metro World News

Alanis Morissette is an older and wiser version of the angry rock chick that swept the music charts by storm 12 years ago when her debut album Jagged Little Pill was released.

On her ever-winding path to self-discovery, she seems to have found a few pieces in her latest venture, Flavors Of Entanglement (Warner), produced and co-written by Guy Sigsworth. The result is a haunting mélange of rock and Eastern sounds, electronics and strings.

Singer, songwriter, actress and writer, Alanis Morissette offers a narrative of her life and thoughts, minus the irony of her younger years.

Q You've got a lot of new sounds with an Eastern resonance and strings.

A I've always leaned toward the scale. That musical scale is so yummy to me. The primary scale is like the primary colours: yellows and reds. The Eastern scale is like purple and blue. So I like the secondary scale or colours a lot. It's more emotional. To me, anyway.

Q Lyrically, you're less angry and it's more about recounting your experiences and sharing your thoughts. Was it a more cathartic album to write?

A It was ... It was like a life raft because I was in the middle of it – it was all done in real time – while I was writing it, which is a different experience than writing in retrospect.

Q In what way?

A There's an urgency to it and to be honest, if I was home sitting in a corner curled up in a ball, I would have been going crazy. So thankfully, I had to be somewhere at one o'clock every day. That helped!

Q Will you ever write a book?

A I'm writing a book. The outline's already been done. It's got photos and essays and articles that I've written: self-care practices and humor and a travelogue.

Q When will it be published?

A I think when I'm done touring for this record ... So I would say late next year or the following year.

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Sopranos duds on block

IDIOT BOX
RICK McGINNIS
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

LOOKING GOOD: Anyone looking to start filling up their own Sopranos museum will get a head start next month, when James Gandolfini will auction off a chunk of his wardrobe from the HBO show at Christie's for charity.

"The actor's contract allowed him to keep the clothes after the show ended its six-season run last year" said an Associated Press story. "He has authenticated all the outfits in the sale."

The auction is expected to bring in up to $36,500 US for the Wounded Warrior Project, a charity benefitting severely wounded veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, and will include the monogrammed bathrobe Gandolfini's Tony Soprano is seen wearing in the show's pilot, and the sports shirt, undershirt and black pants featured in the episode where Soprano was shot by Uncle Junior.

Another 37 costumes worn by Sopranos characters are featured in the sale, though their proceeds will not go to Wounded Warrior. No word on whether a Member's Only jacket is among these extra items.

TALK ABOUT LOW EXPECTATIONS: The geeky goodness of this story is only enhanced by the fact it was found on Wired magazine's Underwired blog. Fan campaigns to revive cancelled shows have gone from wired to tired in barely a year, but Joss Whedon fans — whose hair-trigger finger on the send button accounts for much of my hate mail over the years — are already organizing a campaign to save Dollhouse, Whedon's return to TV, eight months before it's set to debut on Fox.

The show was given a green light by Fox before a foot of the pilot was shot, and its episode order was nearly doubled, from seven to 13, which means they'll be able to sell it as a full-priced box set even if only three hit the air before the apparently inevitable drop from primetime.

There's a Facebook fan page with 1,500 members, and DollhouseForums.com, where the online campaign to save the unseen show is being co-ordinated, with pleas to buy merchandise, increase online trailer viewership, organize viewing parties and create more Dollhouse fan sites.

Some fans are already worried, however, that the pre-emptive fan campaigns might hurt, not help, the how.

"There is a fine line to walk so that this won't be another obnoxious Whedon fan campaign that will piss people off and make them talk negatively about the show in advance," writes one TamaraC on one forum. "Please be careful."

Good point, though since the show is airing on chop-happy Fox, I'd call this prudent, if a little bit high school sci-fi club.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

movies

Bale says Ledger 'intense' on set

Bale

PEOPLE Dark Knight star Christian Bale recalls his costar Heath Ledger as "intense" and "anarchistic" on the set of the set of the late actor's last movie.

"He was incredibly intense in his performance, but incredibly mellow and laid-back. Certainly there was this great anarchistic streak to it — just getting dirtier than anybody's envisioned the Joker before," Bale tells Details. Ledger died on Jan. 22 of a prescription-drug overdose at the age of 28.

movies

McGregor joins Amelia project

McGregor

CASTING Ewan McGregor will co-star with Hilary Swank, Richard Gere, and Virginia Madsen in Fox Searchlight's Amelia Earhart biopic Amelia, ew.com reports.

The movie, directed by Mira Nair (Monsoon Wedding) from a script by Ron Bass (Entrapment), focuses on the aviation legend (Swank) and her rise to fame, marriage to publisher George Putnam (Gere), and affair with Gene Vidal (McGregor), father of author Gore Vidal. McGregor will squeeze Amelia in between other projects. METRO NEWS SERVICES

»going out

8 p.m. Sharon Minemoto. At the Cellar Jazz Club, 3611 W. Broadway St. Tix: $8. Info: *cellarjazz.com*.

8:30 p.m. Bocephus King. At the Oasis Ultra Lounge, 1240 Thurlow St. Tix: $5. Info: *theoasispub.com*.

9 p.m. Next on Deck: Style Dance Crew and Pure Dance. At the Plaza Club, 881 Granville St. Tix: $10. Info: *plazaclub.net*.

9 p.m. Richie Hawtin with guests Magda and Hartthrob. At Celebrities Nightclub, 1022 Davie St. Tix: $25. Info: *celebritiesnightclub.com*.

Heartbreak inspires Alanis

HOLLYWOOD NORTH

ANDREA WOO

andrea.woo@metronews.ca

Reason No. 214 not to date a famous musician: When relations go awry — and they inevitably do — he or she will write about you and countless millions will boogie to the tune of what a giant ass you are. More than a year after ending her engagement with Vancouver-born actor **Ryan Reynolds** — who is now engaged to **Scarlett Johansson** — **Alanis Morissette** is set to release **Flavors Of Entanglement**, which chronicles the past year or so of her life and is replete with references to Reynolds. On Straitjacket, she wails: "This shit's making me crazy, the way you nullify what's in my head/You say one thing, do another and argue that's not what you did/Your way's making me mental...."

GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTO

Considerably funnier than heartbreak and mental anguish are **Ben Stiller**, **Owen Wilson**, **Ricky Gervais** and **Hank Azaria**, who are all set to descend upon Vancouver in coming days to shoot **Night At The Museum 2: Escape From The Smithsonian**. Shooting begins this Sunday and is scheduled to run until mid-September. Fun fact: It was reported that production for the first **Night At The Museum** was originally supposed to be in Montreal until Stiller insisted it be moved to Vancouver. **Tippi Hedren** — animal advocate, mother of **Melanie Griffith** and former actress best known for her role in **Alfred Hitchcock**'s **The Birds** – is in town today to raise awareness on the issue of owning exotic animals. The fundraiser, put on by the B.C. SPCA, takes place at 8 p.m. tonight at the Marriott Pinnacle Hotel downtown. Tickets are $25 and proceeds go toward Hedren's Shambala Reserve in California.

20TH CENTURY FOX PHOTO

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	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 5/28/08	251	308	3 CBC	NHL Hockey		News (CC)	Sophie	CBC News: the fifth estate		CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	255	358	6 CH	E! News	The Insider	Zoe Busiek: Wild Card (CC)		A Trick of the Mind (2006) Paul Johansson. Premiere. (CC)		News (N)		
	254	-	8 M	Law & Order: SVU		Mandarin News		Cantonese News (N)		Punjabi News (In Punjabi) N)		The Simpsons
	250	321	9 CTV	eTalk (CC)	Hollywood	So You Think You Can Dance (N) (CC)				CSI: NY "Child's Play" (CC)		News (N)
	-	-	10 OMNI	According-Jim	TBA	Coach (CC)	Coach (CC)	The Standard	Ustat (CC)	To Be Announced		New Day
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	The Office	Name Is Earl	'Til Death	Back to You	ReGenesis "China" (CC)		News (N)
	256	389	12 VI	Degrassi	Friends (CC)	Wife Swap (N) (CC)		Supernanny "Doyle Family"		Law & Order (CC)		News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Make Me a Supermodel		Rock of Love-Bret Michaels		Men in Trees (N) (CC)		Reviews
	-	-	14 CW	'70s Show	'70s Show	Farmer Wants a Wife (CC)		Farmer Wants a Wife (N)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Price is Right Spectacular		Criminal Minds (CC)		CSI: NY "Child's Play" (CC)		News (N)
	287	379	16 NBC	NHL Hockey		Best of Western Washington		Dateline NBC (CC)		Dateline NBC (CC)		News (N)
	602	568	19 W	Will & Grace	Friends (CC)	Shopping	Style by Jury	Smart Cookies	Stuck	Maxed Out	Style by Jury	Stuck
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Wife Swap (N) (CC)		Supernanny "Doyle Family"		Men in Trees (N) (CC)		News (N)
	-	-	23 KVOS	M*A*S*H	Scrubs (CC)	Twilight Zone: The Movie ★★★ (1983) Vic Morrow.				Will & Grace	Scrubs (CC)	Seinfeld
	291	383	27 PBS	Steves Europe	Field Guide	Secrets of the Dead		Men Get Depression (CC)		Great Performances (N) (CC)		Shall We
	290	382	28 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two-Half Men	So You Think You Can Dance (N) (CC)				News (N) (CC)		Family Guy
	-	364	48 PBS	Michigan Governor's Awards		Keeping Up	Being Served	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)		Secrets of the Dead	
	296	654	34 SBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Cheers (CC)	South Park	Comics Un.	Half & Half	Entertainment	The Insider	Paid Program
	298	653	35 TLA	Two/Half Men	Two-Half Men	Farmer Wants a Wife (CC)		Farmer Wants a Wife (N)		KTLA Prime News (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	36 WGN	MLB Baseball		WGN News	Farmer Wants a Wife (CC)		Farmer Wants a Wife (N)		Will & Grace	My Wife-Kids
	297	652	37 WPX	CW11 News at Ten		Family Guy	Two-Half Men	Sex and-City	Will & Grace	Frasier (CC)	George Lopez	Odd Couple
	199	311	76 STR	News (N)	News		Late Show-Letterman		Inside Edition	Paradise Hotel 2		Late Late
news	502	390	23 NW	CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		Extreme Twins Identical twins.		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	MLB Baseball Toronto Blue Jays at Oakland Athletics. (Subject to Blackout) (Live)						Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	NBA Basketball: Conf. Final		SportsCentre (Live) (CC)		Boxing Yuriorkis Gamboa vs. Darling Jimenez. (Taped) (CC)				SportsCentre
	411	457	49 OLN	Word Travels	Globe Guides	Pilot Guides "South Korea"		Don't Forget Your Passport		Ed's Up (CC)	Angry Planet	The Rig: Oil
	410	403	54 SCR	Score Tonight		The Spin With Steve Kouleas.		Score Update		Score Update		Score Update
	417	406	55 SC	Pass Time	Pass Time	Pinks	Pass Time	Unique Whips		Pinks	Pinks	Pass Time
	416	409	144 GLF	(6:00) Fútbol Amistoso		Gol TV News		American Soccer		Gol TV News		Gol TV News
family	552	543	25 YTV	Malcolm-Mid.	Prank Patrol	Fries That?	Mon. Warriors	Futurama	Shadow	Falcon Beach (CC)		Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50 TEL	George	Road Runner	Scooby-Doo	Futurama	Tripping-Rift	Tripping-Rift	Chicken	Chicken	Tripping-Rift
	557	541	51 FAM	That's-Raven	Smart Guy	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	553	546	56 TRE	Big Comfy	Rolie Polie	Beren. Bears	Babar (CC)	Backyard	Dora-Explorer	Crazy Quilt	The Bittles	Big Comfy
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Lemur Street	Undersea	The Opera Gala Performances from Baden-Baden Germany. (N) (CC)						Sorceress-Kiri
	575	583	20 CMT	Home Imp.	Roseanne	Totally "1996"		Reba (CC)	Hope & Faith	Home Imp.	Roseanne	Ed (CC)
	570	580	24 MM	PunchMuch		Gone Wild	Gone Wild	Punk'd (CC)	Totally Untrue	Gone Wild	Born to Be	Spotlight
	600	564	29 H&G	Unsellable	Buy Me (N)	Open House	Secrets Sell	Hid Potential	House Worth?	Property	City	Unsellable
	615	520	61 A&E	CSI: Miami (CC)		CSI: Miami "Legal" (CC)		CSI: Miami "Pro Per" (CC)		CSI: Miami (CC)		CSI: Miami
	628	584	62 SPKE	The Ultimate Fighter (N)		UFC Unleashed (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		The Ultimate Fighter (CC)		Unleashed
	521	560	64 TLC	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate
	616	522	69 SHO	ReGenesis "The Oldest Virus"		Da Vinci's Inquest (CC)		Trailer Park	Rent-A-Goalie	Life "Serious Control Issues"		House (CC)
	620	523	70 BVO	These Girls	Bravonews	Law & Order "Scoundrels"		Without a Trace "Copy Cat"		Kama Sutra ★★ (1996) Indira Varma. (CC)		
	601	562	71 SLC	Trading Spouses		X-Weighted "Chris" (CC)		How to Find a Husband (CC)		Trading Spouses		Trading Sp
	520	505	72 DIS	Mayday "Fatal Distraction" (N)		Daily Planet (CC)		MythBusters "Vodka Myths"		Really Big Things		Mayday (CC)
	522	506	74 HIS	NCIS "Minimum Security"		Re-Inventors	Legends	Working Over Time (CC)		NCIS "Minimum Security"		Crime Stories
	627	528	75 SPC	Supernatural (CC)		Stargate SG-1 "Redemption"		Star Trek: Voyager "Riddles"		Star Trek: Enterprise (CC)		Alias (CC)
	294	650	97 TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	Metro ★★ (1997) (PA) Eddie Murphy. (CC)		
	619	525	98 TROP	TV Made	Ad Persuasion	ET Canada	What	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)	Family Guy
	603	561	99 FN	Dinner: Impossible (CC)		Challenge (CC)		Iron Chef America (CC)		Dinner: Impossible (CC)		Challenge
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Laughs	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Lewis Black	RENO 911!	Daily Show
	320	621	60 CEN	McCullough	(:45) Catch a Fire ★★★ (2006) Tim Robbins, Derek Luke.				Masters of Horror (CC)		1408 ★★★ (2007, Horror)	
	581	566	101 MTV	The Real World (CC)		MTV Live (CC)		The Real World (CC)		The Real World (CC)		MTV Live
	261	394	102 V	Rabbit Fall	Get-Famously	Side Effects		Jeeves and Wooster		Sorry!	No Place Like	Recreat. Eden
	-	-	103 MUL	The Land	Daughters	Van. Nights	Iranian Pop	Sabor Latino		Hola Que Tal		Patrol World

critics'corner

CSI: NY

It's only funny until someone gets hurt ... or dead. The presence of disappearing ink and an exploding cigar on their latest murder victim leads Mac (Gary Sinise) and his colleagues to a fellow called Laughing Larry (Richard V. Licata, "Boston Legal"). He sells joke items, but they're the deadly serious kind, and we mean that literally. Danny (Carmine Giovinazzo) works on a case that hits close to home in "Child's Play." 10 PM on CBS CTV

Men in Trees

Aww, who wouldn't love a houseful of cute little puppies? Someone with work to do, that's who. In this new episode, Jack (James Tupper) returns from his first college lecture in Anchorage with a gift for Marin (Anne Heche): four puppies, whose care and feeding keeps her away from her writing. Annie (Emily Bergl) finds herself attracted to Ivan (Diego Klattenhoff) during preparations for the talent show in the new episode "New Dogs, Old Tricks." 10 PM on ABC, CITY

celebritybuzz

Downey Jr. to play Hef?

Evan Agostini/Getty Images

Robert Downey, Jr. has been tipped to play legendary porn mogul Hugh Hefner in a big-screen biopic – after reportedly impressing the Playboy entrepreneur with his lead role in Iron Man, imdb.com reports.

Veteran lothario Hefner was so pleased with the former hell-raiser's portrayal of wealthy playboy Tony Stark in this year's comic blockbuster, he is desperate to sign him up for the role.

According to Illinois newspaper the Chicago Sun-Times, Hefner wants Downey Jr. to start shooting the movie – entitled Playboy – next summer . And the Golden Globe-winner is said to be keen to take on the role of Hefner – as long as the script is right. Apollo 13 filmmaker Brian Grazer has already been signed up as the film's producer, according to the publication.

Metro News Services

Knowles may record Bond song

Scott Gries/Getty Images

R&B star Beyoncé Knowles has reportedly been approached to replace Amy Winehouse and record the theme song for the forthcoming Bond movie, Quantum of Solace, imdb.com reports.

Rehab hitmaker Winehouse was rumored to have been dropped as the film's official musical muse after DJ Mark Ronson told reporters he had scrapped his 007 collaboration with the singer, because she was not "ready" to work on music after a recent return to her erratic ways.

But on Saturday, Winehouse confirmed that she has, in fact, completed the song – although she is unsure whether movie bosses will choose to green-light the track for use in the latest superspy offering.

Metro News Services

Liv's motherhood dream

Evan Agostini/Getty Images

Liv Tyler grew up wanting a baby. The actress – who has a three-year-old son, Milo, with estranged husband Royston Langdon – never thought of having a career when she was younger because she always wanted to be a mother, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

She said: "The dream of my whole life was to be a mother. I never had a dream of a career. I'm so grateful to have my son."

"I love travelling with him and it's best for him to be close to me."

Despite splitting from Royston, Liv admits she would like more children.

Metro News Services

Alberto E. Rodriguez/Getty Images

The Jolie-Pitts settle down

Brangelina's ever expanding brood is going to have a lot more room to play. A lot.

Expectant parents Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie have reportedly plunked down an eye-popping $60 million on a sprawling 1,000-acre estate in the south of France, E! News Online.com reports. With 35 bedrooms, plus a vineyard, lake, forest and moat, Maddox, Pax, Zahara, Shiloh and the soon-to-be-born twins are going to be playing house in high style.

"It's called Chateau Miraval in a village called Brignol, which is near from Aix-en-Provence," a source tells E! News. "And it's absolutely unbelievable."

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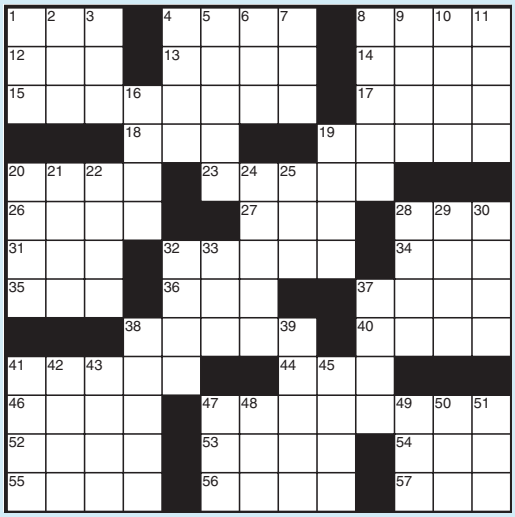

down »

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across »

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41 Really shakes up
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47 Waders (2 wds.)
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53 Garfield's housemate
54 Cauldron
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56 Not hard
57 A Vanderbilt

previous answer

P	A	D		S	O	I	L		P	E	E	L
R	U	E		A	F	R	O		I	O	T	A
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HOROSCOPE

ARIES | March 21-April 20
Be real with someone special. Nonchalance works wonders during a disaster. Keep a stiff upper lip over someone's bad manners.

TAURUS | April 21-May 21
A co-worker tries to trip you up in a crucial project. Appreciate extra thoughtfulness after a fiasco. A visitor wants to change his mind.

GEMINI | May 22-June 21
A lie touches on the truth. Rely on a trusted friend to give good advice. A family member gives some unwelcome criticism.

CANCER | June 22-July 22
Lend a hand to complete a project. Forgotten exploits are out in the open. A senior relative is considerate and agreeable.

LEO | July 23-Aug. 23
Dream images refuse to release you. Avoid involvement in Internet romances. Postpone making any plans for Saturday.

VIRGO | Aug. 24-Sept. 22
There's movement in store for cherished dreams. Count your chickens before they hatch. A dishonest male has fateful plans.

LIBRA | Sep. 23-Oct. 23
Be optimistic that situation will work out. Find an eye-opening solution to a dilemma. An invitation to meet will be warmly received.

SCORPIO | Oct. 24- Nov. 22
The wrong person is placed in charge. Distress just rolls off your back. All paths lead to delight in relationships.

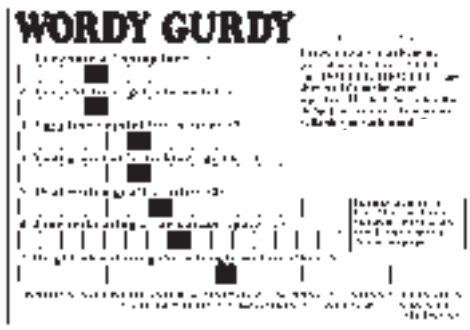
SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 23- Dec. 21
Unfair comparison of circumstances is harmful. Snide comments result from disillusionment. Kisses can restore emotional balance.

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 20
Hope grows for a soon-to-be completed project. Answer the call to lessen debts. Prepare for a tame ride in your love life.

AQUARIUS | Jan. 21-Feb. 18
A cautious approach to a relationship saves the day. You get recognition for your expertise. New shoes provide good cheer.

PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Resist efforts to give up on your beliefs. Check your values before accepting a shady deal. You know how good you've been.

AVATAR VENUS



	1		7		5			2
				9		4		5
				4		1	7	
	4						6	7
			3		2			
9	3						1	
	2	5		7				
6		8		3				
1			8		9		3	

instructions »

The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

solve time »

Under 13 minutes	Genius
13-17 minutes	Scholar
17-21	Smart
21-25	Pretty good
More than 25	Keep practising

previous answer

6	4	7	5	1	8	3	9	2
2	1	8	7	3	9	4	6	5
3	9	5	2	4	6	7	1	8
9	5	2	4	6	7	1	8	3
4	8	1	3	2	5	9	7	6
7	3	6	8	9	1	2	5	4
1	6	4	9	8	3	5	2	7
5	2	9	6	7	4	8	3	1
8	7	3	1	5	2	6	4	9

This Day IN HISTORY

May 28, 1930: The Chrysler Building in New York City officially opens.

May 28, 1937: The Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, California, is officially opened by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in Washington, D.C., who pushes a button signaling the start of vehicle traffic over the span.

May 28, 1940: WWII: Belgium surrenders to Germany.

May 28, 1952: The women of Greece gain the suffrage.

Metro News Service

Vancouver weather

The Weather Network
theweathernetwork.com

Afternoon	Tonight	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Partly cloudy. 19°	60% Rain. Low 11°	Partly sunny. 15°/ 11°	70% Rain. 15°/ 9°	Sunny. 19°/ 10°

Temperature
Normals
High: 17.8°
Low: 9.4°

Records
High: 24.8°/1983
Low: 3.9°/1966

Sunrise: 5:14 a.m.
Sunset: 9:05 p.m.
Moonrise: 2:01 a.m.
Moonset: 1:37 p.m.

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MacPHERSON WALK

Vibrant South Burnaby Living

FINAL RELEASE NOW SELLING
OVER 275 HOMES ALREADY SOLD!

Don't Miss Out at South Burnaby's Most Desirable New Residential Community

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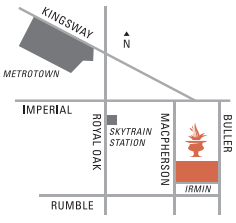
CONVENIENT LOCATION Steps from Royal Oak SkyTrain, close to Metrotown, schools and parks

EXCEPTIONALLY PRICED

One bedrooms start from $249,900
Two bedrooms start from $344,900
Three bedroom townhomes with 2-car private garages from $559,900



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